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HOW TO JUDGE VALUE in Rayons

An Independent Survey

prepared by

THE HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE INSTITUTE

172

A BASIC SHOPPERS' GUIDE TO VALUE IN RAYONS

The Household Science Institute, an independent, non-profit research organization, has compiled this authentic information from recognized authorities. The facts have been interpreted and the material condensed to provide you with an impartial guide to the essential quality factors to look for in judging value in Rayons.

IN SELECTING RAYONS (SYNTHETIC FABRICS) REMEMBER —

1. **Rayon** is the general name for manufactured textile fibers produced chemically from cellulose.

   All rayon fabrics shall be labeled as such, according to rulings published by the Federal Trade Commission in October, 1937. The rayon label must also be used on all garments and articles made from rayon fabrics or yarns.

   By the same rulings, mixtures of rayon and other fibers must be labeled, and the name of the fiber occurring in the largest proportion or weight shall be given first. For example, a fabric in which 60% of the fiber content is silk and 40% rayon must be labeled "Silk and Rayon".
2. Good rayons are durable and fast colored, but like other fabrics, rayons differ in quality, and unscrupulous manufacturers may use poor dyes and make poorly constructed fabrics to cheapen their products.
3. For a given quality, rayons give greater value for your money than do silk or wool.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RAYONS

Rayons are made from cellulose of which the chief source now is cotton linters and wood pulp. The different processes used produce three common types of rayon known as **viscose, cuprammonium,** and **cellulose acetate.** Some characteristics are common to all three types. The rayon industry is making steady progress in reducing the disadvantages and increasing the desirability of rayons for every use to which fabrics are put.

1. Rayons, aside from their dyes, are not affected by perspiration or other body secretions—makes rayons suitable for underwear, linings and other clothing.
2. Rayons, especially acetate rayons are resistant to mold, mildew and action of salt water—good for shower curtains, also for drapes and apparel at the shore.
3. Most rayons have a natural whiteness which has little tendency to yellow with age, laundering or exposure to light—an advantage over silk and wool.
4. Light weakens rayon fabrics less than silk.
5. Rayons regain their original strength after drying, although some are much weakened when wet.
6. Rayons keep clean longer than other fibers which are not so smooth. Smoothness of fibers is a cause of yarn slippage—shown by pulling at seams—which can be overcome by special preparation of yarns and firm weaving.
7. Due to lack of elasticity, their chief disadvantage, rayons may bulge and even break at points of strain.
8. Either luster or dull appearance may be had and does not change with age or laundering.
9. By special treatment, rayons may be given the appearance of other fibers, as silk, wool or linen.
10. Rayons take dyes well, resulting in good colors and reasonable fastness to light and laundering in well finished fabrics.

SELECTION OF A SUITABLE RAYON FABRIC

1. To avoid pulled seams: select a firm weave without coarse, smooth threads. Test by pulling fabric with thumb and forefinger.
2. For satisfactory colors: buy fabrics at a reliable store and give them proper care—few fabrics guaranteed fast under all conditions of use and laundering.
3. For linings: rayons wear well, due to smoothness and resistance to abrasion.
4. Creped fabrics tend to shrink more than plain weaves.
5. If creases persist when fabric is crushed in the hand, the material will muss easily.

VISCOSE AND CUPRAMMONIUM RAYONS

The following brand names are representative of **Viscose Rayon:** Enka, Lolustra, Crown, Lion, and Premier. **Cuprammonium Rayon:** Bemberg.

1. Absorb moisture readily, keeping skin dry—a desirable quality in clothing.
2. These fabrics may be ironed at temperatures suitable for cottons of similar weight.
3. Are good conductors of heat—make cool garments for warm weather wear.
4. Viscose rayon is wiry. Special finishing and use of fine yarns improves the draping quality.
5. Cuprammonium type, because it can be made into very fine thread, may make a very soft, luxurious, silky fabric with great strength and excellent draping quality.

CELLULOSE ACETATE RAYON

The following brand names are representative of **Acetate Rayon:** Celanese, Acele, Seraceta and Eastman.

1. Do not absorb water readily, so do not soil easily and do not readily take up ink or fruit stains or perspiration odors.
2. Acetate rayons do not soften, shrink or stretch appreciably when wet, and dry quickly. Less loss of strength when wet than other rayons.
3. May soften or melt if subjected to high temperatures as in ironing and drying. Acetate rayons take permanent moire finishes and embossing.
4. Acetate rayons are weakened and dissolved by acetone (found in most nail polish removers), chloroform, alcohol (perfumes), and amyl acetate—these are a frequent cause of damage and are a test for acetate rayon.
5. Do not wrinkle readily when worn or folded, are pliable, and drape well.

LAUNDERING AND CLEANING

1. If washable, launder before becoming too soiled with the same methods used satisfactorily with any other fine fabric.
2. Squeeze soap suds thru fabric with cupping motion of the hands.
3. Rinse well in warm water. Then squeeze to remove excess water. Rolling in a heavy towel will remove moisture from knitted and delicate fabrics with little danger of breaking threads or pulling out of shape.
4. Press with a warm iron—not hot. Either press on the wrong side or protect fabric by placing a dry woolen cloth between the rayon fabric and the damp pressing cloth.
5. When dyes are not fast, dry cleaning is usually more satisfactory than laundering. Avoid cleaning compounds which contain acetone, amyl acetate, or chloroform as they dissolve acetate rayon.

Good quality rayons give excellent service in wear and appearance if given the proper care. The best assurance, of obtaining the quality you desire, is to buy your rayon yard goods or garments from reliable stores.

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